Ministry of Environment

Plan for 2016-17

Government of Saskatchewan

Table of Contents

Statement from the Minister 1

Response to Government Direction 2

Operational Plan 3

Highlights 8

Financial Summary 9

Statement from the Minister

The Honourable Herb Cox

Minister of Environment

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Environment's Plan for 2016-2017, which continues on the ministry's path to support Saskatchewan's vision—to be the best place in Canada to live, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life.

The ministry's mission demonstrates its commitment to the province's vision and Plan for Growth. The Ministry of Environment provides science-based solutions, compliance and mitigation measures aimed at protecting the environment, safeguarding communities and helping to ensure balanced economic growth and a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan residents.

The ministry will accomplish this mission in 2016-2017 by focusing on the following goals:

- Reduced risk and harm from environmental contamination
- A clean and safe environment for communities
- Productive, resilient and biologically diverse landscapes
- Increased regulatory certainty and transparency
- High client service satisfaction

This operational plan provides information about the strategies and key actions related to each of the above goals, along with tangible performance measures to strive for throughout the year.

The ministry's dedication to these goals, actions and performance measures will keep us focused on our vision: to manage and protect Saskatchewan's environment for the well-being of the province, its people and its future.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to building on Saskatchewan's foundational strengths, investing in needed infrastructure and in vital programs and services for the people of our province. The Government has made a simple yet significant commitment – to *Keep Saskatchewan Strong*. This year marks the beginning of a government-wide exercise of transformational change to ensure the sustainability of high quality public services delivered in the most effective, efficient way possible.

This focus will advance Government toward the realization of Saskatchewan's Vision and goals.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Saskatchewan's Vision and goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and third parties to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's residents.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2016-17 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

The Ministry of Environment's role is to manage the health of Saskatchewan's environment in a respectful, responsible and enforceable manner that balances growth with sustainable development through objective, transparent and informed decision-making and stewardship.

Mission Statement

The Ministry of Environment provides science-based solutions, compliance and mitigation measures aimed at protecting the environment, safeguarding communities and helping to ensure balanced economic growth and a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan residents.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people
Meeting the challenges of growth
Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people
Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: The Ministry of Environment promotes and regulates responsible development and industrial activity including protection of the environment through environmental assessment, management of industrial sites and compliance activities.

Ministry Goal

Reduced risk and harm from environmental contamination

Strategy

Environmental protection is based on a proactive approach to ensure effective management of the province's natural resources.

Key Actions

- Deliver compliance and enforcement programs to mitigate risk to the environment and public safety.
- Minimize impact of environmental liabilities through financial assurances and compliance audits.
- Prevent pollution through effective management of impacted sites and environmental stewardship.
- Assess high-risk developments to ensure appropriate mitigation measures are in place.

Performance Measures

Percentage of reportable spill incidents in compliance with notification

Increase follow-up compliance on notification by 10 per cent.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: The Ministry of Environment engages with partners and stakeholders to communicate its vision, goals and progress in achieving results.

Ministry Goal

A clean and safe environment for communities

Strategy

Resources are managed to ensure public safety and environmental sustainability.

Key Actions

- Engage the public in developing a solid waste management strategy.
- Renew wildfire fighting assets to ensure continued ability to protect values at risk, with human life and communities as highest priority.
- Monitor and maintain 'good' air quality.
- Increase implementation of wildfire community protection plans to reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire events and reduce number of evacuations.

Performance Measures

Quality of Saskatchewan's air

Air Quality Index rating is good or excellent 95 per cent of the time.

Recycling rates

Maintain an 80 per cent recycling rate on beverage containers while optimizing waste recycling in all other recycled materials.

Solid waste management

Decrease non-compliance at municipal landfills.

Human-caused wildfires

Reduce the number of wildfires caused by human activity.

Level of risk to community by wildfire

Number of community protection plans and mitigation projects completed.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: The Ministry of Environment adopts a cumulative effects approach to environmental management by taking into account the combined effects of past, present and foreseeable human activities over time on the environment, economy and society in a particular place.

Ministry Goal

Productive, resilient and biologically diverse landscapes

Strategy

The ministry promotes sustainable use and allocation of natural resources.

Key Actions

- Develop and implement a land use planning process that informs development and resource allocation.
- Maximize sustainable allocation and harvest of natural resources.
- Develop a framework to improve coordinated provincial responses to health issues that link humans, animals and the environment.
- Deliver and explore opportunities for expanding integrated environmental monitoring and management.
- Develop range plans to protect boreal caribou populations and habitat as required by the federal *Species at Risk Act*.
- Maintain productive and biologically diverse forests through renewal and protection from invasive insects and diseases.

Performance Measures

Number of hectares in the Representative Areas Network

Maintain Saskatchewan's commitment to conserve representative and unique landscapes.

Percentage of forest renewal following timber harvest

Sufficiently regenerated area status to be 100 per cent.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: The Ministry of Environment provides regulatory certainty through the use of recognized standards for informed decision-making to promote responsive and efficient regulations for a sustainable, competitive and diverse economy.

Ministry Goal

Increased regulatory certainty and transparency

Strategy

Decision-making is supported by a culture of innovative thinking, partnerships, high-quality science and data and a robust, risk-based approach presented in a manner understood and broadly acceptable to the public.

Key Actions

- Design and deliver policies, programs and standards to ensure regulatory requirements are competitive, current and aligned with the ministry's results based objectives.
- Advance Saskatchewan's climate change strategy with a focus on regulatory certainty, technological innovation and environmental resiliency.
- Enhance the use of data, modeling and technology for making informed decisions.
- Ensure transparent processes are accessible by all stakeholders through online services.
- Deliver streamlined service for environmental assessments of new and expanded developments.
- Conduct assessments, audits and enforcement activities to ensure compliance with environmental standards and legislation.

Performance Measures

Hunting, trapping and angling licence online transactions

Increase proportion of online hunting, trapping and angling transactions.

Sustainable timber harvest: percentage of annual allowable cut harvested

Harvest does not exceed annual allowable cut.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: The Ministry of Environment delivers effective programs and services through a values-based work culture with highly-skilled and knowledgeable employees.

Ministry Goal

High client service satisfaction

Strategy

Work with clients internally and externally to develop innovative policies, programs, governance models and regulatory initiatives to ensure the environment is managed for the broadest possible public benefit.

Key Actions

- Develop and implement a ministry stakeholder engagement strategy that is client and community focused to manage engagement and communications in a timely manner.
- Optimize relationships and resources to achieve ministry and government outcomes; sustain and maintain resources and monitoring networks through proponents, universities, NGOs and other government agencies to integrate information and determine effectiveness of resource management actions.
- Ensure the ministry and its clients have access to information and resources to support informed decision-making.
- Work with partners to increase environmental literacy through training, education and outreach.

Performance Measures

Business transactions completed online

Increase business transactions to 80 per cent of all permits/business completed online by 2020.

Number of collaborative initiatives to achieve outcomes

Increase ministry efforts to engage and collaborate with stakeholders.

Highlights

2016-17 Budget Highlights:

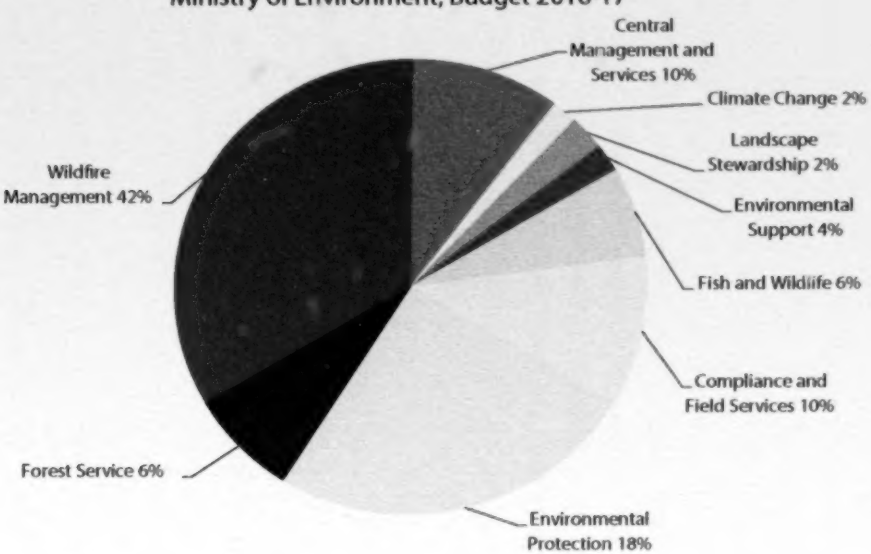
- An additional $17.801 million in capital funding is included in the 2016-17 budget for the modernization of the ministry's aerial fleet and associated enhancements of the La Ronge hangar and apron.
- In 2016-17, the ministry will continue to take a landscape-based approach to species planning and management with $705 thousand dedicated to the research and development of the provincial boreal caribou conservation plan, and $115 thousand dedicated to the implementation of recovery measures as part of the South of the Divide Action Plan in south-western Saskatchewan.
- The ministry has developed a sound Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention strategy that includes $100 thousand in the 2016-17 budget for AIS education and awareness, strategic communication and some decontamination efforts in the field.
- The ministry will continue its transformation to a results-based approach in 2016-17 and the budget includes $1.938 million in capital funding for the ministry to continue to modernize its information management systems as part of this transition.

Financial Summary

2016-17 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	17,008
Climate Change	2,631
Landscape Stewardship	3,822
Environmental Support	6,641
Fish and Wildlife	10,927
Compliance and Field Services	17,513
Environmental Protection	32,162
Forest Service	10,610
Wildfire Management	73,887
Total Appropriation	**175,201**
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(25,004)
Capital Asset Amortization	11,204
Total Expense	**161,401**
FTE Staff Complement	**865.4**

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget

Ministry of Environment, Budget 2016-17



For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/environment